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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-005

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor at amsat.org.

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see:
http://www.amsat.org/mailman/listinfo/ans

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-005.01
ANS-005 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 005.01
>From AMSAT HQ KENSINGTON, MD.
DATE 2020 Jan 05
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-005.01

AMSAT Member KC9ZJX Receives 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Award

Congratulations to AMSAT member Dhruv Rebba, KC9ZJX, winner of the Bloomington and Normal (Illinois) Human Relations Commissions 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. award. The commission chooses people who reflect the ideology of the late Dr. King.

Rebba is a sophomore at Normal Community High School. He is a volunteer and/or member of YMCA/YWCA, Illinois 4-H, Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP), National Computer Science Honor Society, and First Robotics. He is also Amateur Radio Newsline's 2019 Young Ham Of The Year. Rebba gave the youth presentation at AMSAT 36th Annual Symposium Huntsville, Alabama in 2018 where is also received AMSAT's Presidential Award.

The announcement is posted on-line at:

https://www.wglt.org/post/bloomington-normal-mlk-awards-announced

[ANS thanks WGLT.org, NPR Radio from Illinois State University,
for the above information]

Changes to AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution for January 2, 2020

Correction to the addition of FloripaSat 1 to last week's TLE distribution:

FloripaSat 1 is NORAD CAT ID 44885.

Also the first part of the TLE distribution was left off the orb19360.2l.amsat file sent last week. The second file sent orb19361.2l.amsat contained the full list of satellites.

We are still awaiting the identification of CAS-6. Or... Use the keps for FloripaSat 1 (NORAD CAT ID 44885) for CAS-6 per suggestion of Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P. This, of course, assumes that CAS-6 is in fact transmitting???

[ANS thanks Ray Hoad, WA5QGD, AMSAT Orbital Elements Manager, for the above information]

Space Fence nearing operational acceptance by U.S. Air Force

According to NASA’s most recent Orbital Debris Quarterly News, NASA calculates about 17.6 million pounds of objects are in earth orbit. That number will only grow as more commercial space projects launch massive constellations with thousands of smallsats, presenting a huge problem for both U.S. government and commercial organizations.

That’s where the U.S. Air Force’s Space Fence will play a crucial role. Using advanced solid-state S-band radar technology, the Space Fence radar located on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, it will play a critical role in the everyday lives of Americans who are becoming more dependent on space-based technologies for everything from weather forecasting, banking, global communications to GPS navigation.

Today, these critical services are being threatened by hundreds of thousands of objects and space debris orbiting the Earth. Frequent collisions and deterioration of assets, such as defunct satellites and rocket boosters, have increased the amount of space debris and raised the risk of future collisions in space.

The Air Force Space Surveillance Network currently tracks about 25,000 objects. When Space Fence comes online, the catalog will experience significant growth and when fully operational, Space Fence will be the world’s largest and most advanced radar system, providing unprecedented space situational awareness.

Beyond cataloging objects, Space Fence will detect closely-spaced objects, breakups, maneuvers, launches and conjunction assessments from LEO through GEO.

Space Fence is currently in a trial period and expected to become fully operational in 2020.

[ANS thanks Milsat Magazine for the above information]

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Winter Field Day runs for 24 hours during the last full weekend in January each year from 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Saturday to 1900 UTC (2pm EST) Sunday. For 2020 the dates are January 25th and 26th. Station set-up may commence no earlier than 1900 UTC (2pm EST) on the Friday before. Station setup may consume no more than 12 hours total.

All Amateur bands, HF, VHF, & UHF except 12, 17, 30 and 60 meters. Any mode that can faithfully transmit the exchange intact without a conversion table... CW, SSB, AM, FM, DStar, C4FM, DMR, Packet, PSK, SSTV, RTTY, Olivia, Satellite, etc... (note FT8 is excluded).

Satellite contacts do not count as a new mode/band multiplier. Satellite contacts are limited to ONE ONLY per entry so as to not tie up satellite frequencies with stations calling CQ WFD.

Three operating categories are available:
Indoor: Operation from inside a remote, insulated, heated, and weather-protected structure where an Amateur station is normally not available.
Outdoor: Operation from a location partly or fully exposed to the elements and at least 30 feet away from your normal station location and not using any part of a previously erected antenna system or station.
Home: Operation from inside a home or inside another structure attached to a home that could or would be the usual location of an Amateur station.

For additional information, see: https://www.winterfieldday.com/

[ANS thanks the Winter Field Day Association for the above information]

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For additional information on the AMSAT Ambassador Program, see:
https://www.amsat.org/ambassador/

[ANS thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, Director, AMSAT Ambassadors for
the above information]

Upcoming Satellite Operations

Due to weather concerns, the W5M/MM satellite expedition to EL58 is
being postponed to Sunday Jan 5th. For updates, follow on Twitter
at https://twitter.com/ad0dx

Lucas Gusher Special Event (EM20) January 11-12, 2020
The Beaumont Amateur Radio Club will be operating using the call-
sign K5S on various HF bands including as many CAS-4A, CAS-4B,
AO-91, AO-92 passes that we can. SO-50 and XW-2A also possible.
More information about K5S can be found on qrz.com.

Labrador (GO11 +) January 19-27, 2020
Chris VE3FU, Dave VE9CB, and Frank VO1HP will be active as VO2AC
in the 2020 CQ160 CW contest, January 24-26, from Point Armour
Lighthouse, in Labrador. If time permits before the contest, they
may be active on FM satellites from GO11 as VO2AC or VO2AAA.
Depending on weather and timing of passes, you might catch them on
FM satellites as they make their way from FO93 to GO-11, passing
through FO92, GO02, GO13, GO12, and GO22 along the way, but no
promises. They will also make the reverse trek on January 27.

Big Bend National Park (DL88) March 16-17, 2020
Ron AD0DX, Doug N6UA, and Josh W3ARD will operate from Big Bend
National Park to put grid DL88 on the air. Details will be added
here, as they come available, but you are more than welcome to
keep an eye on their individual Twitter feeds:
https://twitter.com/ad0dx, https://twitter.com/dtabor, and
https://twitter.com/W3ARDstroke5

Please submit any additions or corrections to ke4al (at) amsat.org

[ANS thanks Robert Bankston, KE4AL, AMSAT VP User Services for
the above information]

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(ANS thanks Surrey Amateur Radio Communications for the above info)

+ A CBC Hamilton news feature on John David, VA3JHD, and his work with the Canadian Forces Affiliate Radio Systems (CFARS), briefly mentions amateur satellites. See the article at: https://tinyurl.com/rmbpfxa
(ANS thanks CBC Hamilton for the above information)

+ Work is going "smoothly" on the Chandrayaan-3 mission to put a rover probe on the moon's surface, Indian Space Research Organisation chairman K. Sivan told a press conference. India is seeking to become only the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to put a mission on the moon's surface and boost its credentials as a low-cost space power. The country's Chandrayaan-2 module crashed on the moon's surface in September.
(ANS thanks spacedaily.com for the above information)

+ China has just released the first batch of #ChangE4 science data! The first ever mission to land on the the far side of the Moon. This is actually a really cool and user friendly website. To access in English visit: http://moon.bao.ac.cn/index_en.jsp

+ E-members of AMSAT-UK can now download the December 2019 edition of OSCAR News, issue 228. For details, see:
https://amsat-uk.org/2019/12/31/december-2019-oscar-news/
Also, a video on a recent moonbounce and satellite expedition to Botswana may be found on the AMSAT-UK website:
https://amsat-uk.org/2019/12/27/a21eme-moonbounce-qo100/
(ANS thank AMSAT-UK and Trevor Essex, M5AKA, for the above information)

+ Congratulations to Chris Taron, NK1K, on the achievement of DXCC via LEO satellite! This is a remarkable achievement matched by few.
(ANS thanks Twitter @NK1K for the above information)

+ Congratulations to WA7FWF on uploading 1 million Fox Telemetry frames to the server. For more information on capturing telemetry from the Fox satellites, see:
https://www.amsat.org/foxtelem-software-for-windows-mac-linux/
(ANS thanks Mark Hammond, N8MH, AMSAT Board Member, for the above information

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Office.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate. Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status. Contact Martha at the AMSAT Office for additional student membership information.

73 and Remember to help keep amateur radio in space,
This week's ANS Editor,

K0JM at amsat dot org